

## John Taylor, 27 June 1854; Sermon in honor of martyrdom

Papers of George D. Watt MS 4534, box 2, disk 2, 1854 images 146-175

Sermon not in Journal of Discourses or in CR 100 317

Transcribed by LaJean Purcell Carruth 22 April 2011

TREMENDOUS BLESSING TO HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH JOSEPH SMITH; HE WAS WITH HIM IN ALL KINDS OF CIRCUMSTANCES; HIS CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY; HIS TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH SMITH [VERY POWERFUL]; JOSEPH SMITH WATCHES OVER THE SAINTS; KINGDOM OF GOD ROLLING FORTH; PRIESTHOOD; GOSPEL ETERNAL; HYRUM SMITH; JOSEPH AND HYRUM SOUGHT TO PROMOTE PEACE AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE HUMAN FAMILY; FALSEHOODS CIRCULATED ABOUT JOSEPH AND ABOUT THE SAINTS; INTRODUCTION OF PLURAL MARRIAGE; REACTION OF TWELVE WHEN THEY FIRST LEARNED OF THIS PRINCIPLE, DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING IT; JOHN C. BENNETT; NAUVOO EXPOSITOR; DELIBERATIONS OF CITY COUNCIL REGARDING SAME; DESTRUCTION OF PRESS; LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SO DOING [AT SOME LENGTH]; THOMAS C. SHARP, OTHER ANTI-MORMONS; PERSECUTIONS WITHOUT CAUSE; DESTRUCTION OF SAINTS' PROPERTY; MORE ABOUT LEGAL BASIS FOR DESTRUCTION OF EXPOSITOR; HIS CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR FORD ON THE SAME; SAINTS VOTING AS A BLOCK; CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN JOSEPH SMITH AND GOVERNOR FORD; GATHERING AFFIDAVITS ON ANTI-MORMONS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; BAIL REQUESTED FOR CARNS; HIS MEETING WITH GOVERNOR FORD; JOSEPH AND HYRUM CROSS THE RIVER; TAYLOR PREPARING TO GO EAST; JOSEPH AND HYRUM BEFORE SQUIRE WELLS; LEAVING FOR CARTHAGE; REFERS TO RECENT COMMENT BY PRESIDENT YOUNG "HE BELIEVED THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS WITH DRAWN FROM IT AT THE TIME AND HE WAS LEFT TO GRAPPLE WITH THE POWERS OF DARKNESS"; COMMENTS MADE BY JOSEPH ON WAY TO CARTHAGE; GOVERNOR FORD PLEDGED HONOR OF STATE; MORE ABOUT BAIL FOR GARN; JOSEPH AND HYRUM CHARGED WITH TREASON BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A BAILABLE OFFENSE; FORD WOULD NOT INTERVENE; EVENTS IN JAIL; HEARING; CARTHAGE GRAYS; GOVERNOR FORD WENT TO NAUVOO; WHO WAS IN JAIL WITH THEM

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[On cover of notebook in Deseret Alphabet: Note book June 27th 1854

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[Remainder of notebook cover is in Pitman shorthand]: Sermon by President Brigham Young on the death of Joseph testifying of him

A description of the murder of the Prophet Joseph and Hyrum his brother by John Taylor.

See note book mark, part of the description of the murder of Joseph Hyrum.<sup>1</sup>

Tabernacle afternoon June 27th 1854.

John Taylor

I am called upon to address the congregation a little this afternoon [space] I do so with pleasure although at the same time the things we have heard this morning and the reflections that have revolved through my mind in relation to these matters produce rather painful feelings for the things referred by President Young this morning seemed as it were to be fresh before my mind things of late and old circumstances and things of other nations would seem [as it were?] and obliterated unless our minds were again refreshed by that [space] there is something very pleasing about these matters pleasing to me and to my brethren it is pleasing to know that we are the disciples of as good a man as Joseph Smith was of a man that lived in the fear of God and taught his fear who was faithful all his life long and unto the death [space] it is pleasing to reflect upon our associations with man of this kind and also with Brother Hyrum it is to me and I am happy to be associated with the church and kingdom of God I feel thankful to my Heavenly Father that I live in this day and age of the world when the light and truth of everlasting gospel has shone forth [space] I consider it one of greatest blessings and privileges that can be proffered upon me as an individual next to the spirit of God so brooding upon my mind as to cause me to yield obedience to that gospel

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and to participate in blessing associated there with [space] I was blessed to be associated with Brother Joseph Smith and as President Young said he knew him so did I [space] I have been with him under all kinds of circumstances when the thick clouds of darkness gathered around and the earth quakes seemed to bellow and threaten destruction when the forces of earth were rallied against him and in times of prosperity I have heard him as many of you have speak in public to advance the principles of eternal truth plead with the people to observe the laws of God and keep his commandments that they might be prepared for a celestial inheritance I have also been with him in private counsel so I have had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with his feelings ideas views with his morality with his truthfulness with his integrity [space] and I know that he was a good man that he was an honest man that he was a man of integrity that he was a prophet of the Lord that he lived in that capacity and died in that capacity and maintained his integrity to the end [space] I was not only with him living but with him ~~dead~~ dying and this is my testimony concerning Joseph Smith I know before God and the holy angels I do not think it I know it [space] I know that he was a servant of God and prophet of the Lord and lived

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and died in the faith I not only know it by my natural sight but by the revelations of God and I know by the same way that he yet lives because I have seen him and I know he yet lives and therefore I rejoice in the testimony that I can bear concerning him and I know he will live and I know also that he is a friend of this people and watching over their interests and I know also that he is a friend of President Young and watches over him and he is interested in the welfare the happiness and the exaltation of the saints of the Most High and having a knowledge of these things it sustains my mind and comforts my heart and strengthens me in the faith of the new and everlasting covenant and in the principles of truth that we continue to hear from day to day and I rejoice myself exceedingly to be associated with brethren such as I am with at the present time men that fear God that keep his commandments men whose first desire is to keep the law of God to roll forth his purposes and to benefit the human family in order that they may be prepared by and by to enter into more extensive field and participate in blessings in wait for them [space] I ~~have~~ esteem it one of the greatest blessings conferred upon me to anticipate in this priesthood that is the government of God in the heavens and upon the earth that rules and regulates and controls all affairs in the eternal worlds and when the will of

[Image 149]

of God shall be done on earth as it is in heaven that it will rule and control  
and regulate all the forces of this earth I rejoice then to participate in the blessings  
of this gospel and priesthood and I look upon everything else as short lived  
which is temporal whether it is riches or poverty ease or pain whether it is prosperity or  
adversity no matter what the circumstances may be in which I or which you may be placed  
it is a matter of very little importance unto us if the circumstances that we are placed  
in have a tendency to lead us nearer to God to make us more  
susceptible to his laws to make us obedient to his command that we may fulfill our  
destiny on earth and be prepared to join with Joseph Hyrum and with those  
who have lived in the faith and died in the faith of the Son of God  
for Hyrum was a good man and a servant of the living God and a man of integrity  
and truthfulness and I saw him fall when he fell in prison and heard  
the last words he spoke and I know that the desire of Joseph and of Hyrum was to promote  
peace whatever may have been the feelings of those that were around whatever views they  
might have had in relation to their conduct to their course in relation

[Image 150]

to their views their ideas or their private and public feelings was to promote the happiness and well being of the human family that was the worst[?] feeling I ever saw manifested by either of them it was to procure the happiness and well being of human family as far as God should give them ability to do it and these were their private and public feelings the feelings they manifested before the public congregation before the world in private council and under all circumstances and although there are thousands of falsehoods in circulation concerning them and although many of them are believed by the people yet this was the bona fide feeling of these servants of God while they lived upon the earth and I know it did ever anybody hear them teach unrighteous principles no did ever anybody see them practice unrighteous conduct no [space] as President Young said they were men and they were perhaps the best men that lived they might have some little weaknesses and foibles like other men but if they had been better than that they would not been fit to associate with people but they were men of God and lived and died in faith of that gospel they preached and did it sincerely with honest hearts before God and men

[Image 151]

and therefore I feel pleasure in testifying of these things I have  
born the same testimony I have done here in different nations and before  
large public congregations I know some people don't like especially abroad to say  
it is but these have been my feelings here and will be to the  
day of my death and through eternity [space] in relation  
to some of these events I can relate some of the outlines of these things  
there was a time sometime little time before these persecutions commenced there was a time  
that was particularly trying to the people new doctrine of ~~what is called~~ what used to be called  
then spiritual wifery and the doctrine was first introduced of men having more wives  
than one it was a thing new to the whole of us yet it was a thing  
that was substantiated[?] by scripture and made manifest also by revelation and it only  
needed men to have the spirit of God or woman to know and to understand  
the principles that Joseph communicated unto them I remember being with President Young  
and Kimball and I think one or two others with Brother Joseph soon after  
we had returned from England he talked with us on these principles and laid them before

[Image 152]

us it tried our minds and feelings we saw it was something going  
to be heavy upon us it was not that very nice pleasing thing some people  
thought about it it [sic] is something that harried up our feelings did we believe  
it yes we did I did the whole rest of the brethren did but still  
we should have been glad to push it off a little further we been glad  
if it hadn't come in our day but that somebody else had something to do  
with it instead of us but then at the same time if we was called upon we felt  
feeling to do what God required of us I know what my feelings  
were and thought I understand what some of the rest of the brethren's feelings were  
about this time John C Bennett commenced some of his operations  
he made use of some of those principles to corrupt to destroy not only himself  
but others [space] and as it was impossible ~~almost~~ together to come out and teach  
correct principles before the public in those days some of those men got an  
inkling of these things and corrupted themselves were full of [--?]<sup>2</sup>  
and abomination and corrupted their own bodies and sought to destroy others and they  
succeeded in great measure with many [space] I could name the  
names of many John C Bennett the two Higbees<sup>3</sup> [space]  
and some others I could name do not feel disposed but they had



[Image 153]

to be handled and brought before the high council and the council had to sit with closed doors because of the corruptions there manifested it was pretty generally known the course that was pursued Joseph came out strongly against John C Bennett he was naturally a corrupt man and given to it and the first trouble that ever we met with was in the city council I was present the city council of Nauvoo and Joseph wished an ~~ordinance~~ ordinance to be introduced there upon adulterous practices this [militated?] so much against John C Bennett he began to give way from that time and to be Joseph's enemy and he then began to publish and circulate and finally those other men associated with them there were number of them and some perhaps who didn't know the iniquity of the parties they associated with believed Bennett's stories about the ladies that white veil black veil as it were [space] they joined with him and purchased a press called it the Nauvoo Expositor this press went to work to defame the character of the sisters of Nauvoo and of the brethren and their were some of the most scandalous things published in it that was ever published in any paper having a tendency to [abominably?] defame and destroy the character of the females of City of Nauvoo

[Image 154]

and at the same time there was not a more Zion[?] pure and honorable community in the world with some few exceptions of course there were some exceptions but those were not the exceptions they made they were the things they called honorable that is they they loved corruption and hated correct principles and that when they found they could not carry out their design which was tending to destroy and contaminate society then they went to work with all the power and venom of the devil to suffocate and berate and destroy and truly to obliterate if possible the Latter-day Saints the thing was brought before the city council some people thought that that [sic] council acted improperly that they did that which they had no right to do namely to pass a law to destroy the press that is this Expositor it may be well here perhaps for me to give an explanation of some matters in relation to that matter [space] it may be of use to elders abroad as I was on that council and I believe made perhaps the first move towards the destruction of it may be well to give reasons why why here but as it regards the legality of things is an question some people may not fully understand we possessed in city of Nauvoo a city charter

[Image 155]

and there was imbedded in it an article like this it gave  
us power to declare what is a nuisance and to remove that nuisance  
I don't profess to be much of a legal mind myself but Blackstone  
~~one of great~~ one all our lawyers refer to he states in his  
writing that a scandalous news paper may be considered as  
nuisance the city charter of Nauvoo gave unto us power  
to declare what was a nuisance and remove it we did so  
we considered that was a nuisance and that it was calculated to injure  
destroy community we passed a law accordingly and ordered the city marshall to remove  
it which was done as most of you know [space] it was removed destroyed  
and the type scattered to the four winds and if had the things to do  
over again ten thousand times I would do it ten thousand times  
under the same circumstances ~~the circumstances~~ my mind never altered  
about it in life or death staring me in my face  
my feelings views in that matter never changed we  
acted strictly according to law in that thing and laws are made  
for the punishment of wrong and protection of right I know  
what the feelings of many men are in these days it is a thing

[Image 156]

got by zeal handled by men that were not men  
of understanding they thought we were attacking the great bulwark  
of America the freedom of press in destroying these few  
types and destroying their office that we were attacking one of the  
great bulwarks of American freedom that was the idea entertained  
by many but there is a difference between freedom and abuse of it [space] freedom  
as I understand it don't go any further in any country than  
people being free to do right there is no country no place under the heavens  
that freedom will extend further than that [space] many people  
[smudged out: do wrong] of course all the time but there is no freedom that will  
allow me to interfere with the rights of my brethren there is no country I can  
go to that will allow me to interfere with the rights of citizens in  
that country if I was attacked individually by a press I have a  
right to punish ~~him~~ as editor as libel we stood in municipal  
capacity at that time and had a right to put an end to the [njine/ntine?]  
that caused it [space] I must tell you what Governor Ford's views was upon  
this thing I talked with about it [space] says he Mr. Taylor I was  
sorry you destroyed that yet says I it was legal that is

[Image 157]

nothing but it comes in contact with the prejudice of people [space] do you  
know the law about that yet what were we to do then  
are we to be trampled upon is there a city in the union  
that [ever did?] no [space] what were we to do then I would have  
got up a mob to destroy it and that would have cleared  
the city council we had honestly integrity enough to maintain  
the truthfulness of law but the governor of state so afraid of the  
what the people say but let us get up a mob to destroy the damned thing  
we knew we were right and did it that was the belief we acted  
upon in that case what was the result of it the whole country was  
aroused and there was Thomas C Sharp the editor of news paper  
in Warsaw and the anti-Mormon body of men combined together seek  
to destroy the Latter-day Saints these parties with their newspapers circulated every  
story that human ingenuity or malice of devil could invent fabricated  
every kind of falsehood in order to inflame and irritate the public mind  
and they succeeded in great measure in doing it but say some how is  
it possible I have been spoken to abroad by men of intelligence  
how is it possible that circumstance of that kind could be brought about

[Image 158]

and that such things could be raised against you so many  
thousand people in his [arms/armies?] and ~~in~~ full of integrity how is it  
possible if you had done no wrong I tell you how ~~it was~~  
I told them [space] there were two or three reasons [space] in the first place  
our religion not popular religion it was opposed to their religion and theirs  
to ours we had met them in argument but they could not with stand  
them [space] it was not possible for them to maintain their position as religion  
under those circumstances consequently some other plan must be adopted feeling  
of right naturally [inside?] just the same as has been the case under all  
circumstances where religion has been at stake and where there has been difference of sentiment  
when argument failed persecution stepped in but did this religion  
believe those things no [space] there was another party which was a political  
party we possessed the power of the votes in that county and we got control  
in a great measure by going into one of the schools at the time  
but been mentioned we could put it down either way as American  
citizens we[?] had to vote if we voted for the Whigs the Democrats were  
our enemies if for the Democrats the Whigs were our enemies  
now it was the policy of Joseph Smith to take a middle ways

[Image 159]

and consolidate as far as possible the feelings of people hence we could have voted in all the officers in the county having the power to do so through our votes we didn't do it we had voted them on city council in Nauvoo in order to do away with prejudice there was several persons in it not in the church Squire Wells Barnett Warrington and ~~[this way/those were?]~~ I speak of these things in order to show the conciliatory spirit Joseph Smith made use of in order to calm the troubled feelings of people and do away with the strong antipathy that generally prevailed in relation to politics every body knows<sup>4</sup> with regard to American politics how strong the feelings of each party against [space] I remember an anecdote reading it in French paper each party set the other down as most infamous scandalous in existence setting the ~~the president~~ person down as ~~being~~ who was putting up for person the French editor says bet they could find an honest man in America [space] of course we must have a strong<sup>5</sup> party of that kind opposed to us put the religion[?] in and [that in/hold on?] [space] then there was another set of rabble pick pockets cut throats black/bk[?] legs

[Image 160]

which would go any length to accomplish his purpose who could be  
hired to kill a man for small sum and perjure himself  
any day for glass of grog some of these politicians gave a  
lot of such men as these a little grog says they should damn  
all Mormons let's go and destroy them and the [ts/does/--?] party would  
wink at it saying they were opposed to our religion[?] if we could  
get up a posse get them out of way them we would not like  
to be among us yes we put them on a litter thus  
their influence with the devil at their head was the great cause of this  
animosity and trouble excited in that place it was not any Joseph Smith  
or any Hyrum not any one of the elders or authorities that lived  
in Nauvoo for there never was a city of men in this world that  
were more desirous to seek peace and promote it than the authorities and politicians  
of that city here the plan the [flame/blame?] commenced the spirit of prosecution  
began to rage a road was cut out against the city council against the  
mayor and city council Joseph Smith was mayor for destroying this press



[Image 161]

the excitement ran very high [space] mobs got up in different parts  
of the county and they commenced to burn houses in the neighborhood that Brother  
Morley lived out at [Lima?]<sup>6</sup> and around in that district they began  
to [inserted above line: bear away and] destroy the property of the brethren when they did so rumors kept  
coming in every day to Joseph Smith he wrote to the governor and wanted  
to know what he was to do he received word back he was to maintain  
the peace as lieutenant general of Nauvoo Legion he did so and in order  
that the governor might not be misinformed in relation to the matter when the  
excitement began to rage in great extent he sent messengers  
for a number of days in succession and with affidavits and testimony  
concerning the events taking place all around asking his counsel and laying  
before him the position of things and of the people among other things  
requesting him to come down Brother Hunter went on one of these  
expeditions number of others whose names I have forgot [space] it was  
s[pring] time heavy rain [set?] out as parties here or there

[Image 162]

[were on the way/that were?] to meet the governor and he on his way they missed each other in midst of this burning the sheriff called upon Bakenstos he called out a posse of men to put down the men who was stirring up this commotion and take out the company and as soon they came in their neighborhood they made tracks and cried for more I rather think perhaps in this skirmish there may be some few persons killed I do not remember the detail of these circumstances but merely the outlines the governor by and by made his appearance at Carthage and he sent a deputation down to Joseph Smith requesting him to send out a deputation to him to wait upon him in Carthage to acquaint him with state of affairs in Nauvoo Joseph Smith appointed Doctor Bernheisel who is now in Washington and myself to go with the deputies of the governor and meet him in Carthage and to take with us the papers we had the documents affidavits testimonies etc. that had been presented before Joseph Smith of acts of violence that had been sworn to by different individual as they came and made their cases known to him I believe Squire Wells took a good many of them

[Image 163]

we went to the governor and found every thing there in greatest state of excitement  
all the black legs murderers though some of them I was  
acquainted with and believe them to be such from our testimony apostates and greatest  
enemies that Joseph Smith and Mormonism had in the country were there and as  
it is said about Brutus having his right hand men many of them seemed to me  
to be the right hand men of the governor we did not obtain an interview with him immediately  
but perhaps it might be well here to relate a little incident  
occurred about the time we arrived there about 11 at night we  
went right to the hotel the governor stayed at and took up our quarters  
there we had not been in there ten minutes when there was a soldier  
came in and he knew that one of our brethren Brother Carns<sup>7</sup> of German  
descent as good man any where [knew/owned?] he had been committing some great  
misdemeanor he said and naturally that it was necessary he should be imprisoned  
but they felt balance/bowels[?] of compassion towards him being [man held?]  
and they wanted one of us to go and give bail for them it  
struck me to be rather curious kind of night to take up prisoners  
to give bail and we knew our documents to be laid before the  
governor I said I don't believe your statement about Carns but if bail

[Image 164]

is necessary tomorrow morning we[?] go and see him and it will all  
be right [space] we passed along and went to our lodging and as  
we were going into our room we passed through another room  
and we saw laying in that room a man by the name of Jackson  
a repeat murderer our bed was placed [beside/opposite?] his just two board  
posts between [space] we had with us arms I had a good six shooter  
I did not sleep any that night thought I would be on the alert as  
nobody else was [space] so we had just got into bed when  
rap came to door and Chauncey Higbee came many of  
you know him a notorious scamp as black apostate and full  
of devil as anybody he came there and knocked at our door  
and of course he thought it would be of no use speaking to me [space] after [what has?]  
taken place ~~doctrine~~ now doctor it is a pity Carns should be  
not/in[?] believe him to be a good sort of fellow sorry to see him  
laying in jail would it not be better to go and liberate  
him talked with the doctor and he thought he would go Chauncey went out of

[Image 165]

room until he got his clothes on says I you ~~may~~ better  
stay where you are [space] don't you know we have papers and documents  
very purpose part us to destroy ~~us~~ either one of us [space] ~~he~~  
~~said~~ we stayed together that night towards the next night we had an interview  
with the ~~governor~~ ~~he~~ when we went into the room he was surrounded with just  
such characters I had mentioned and if it had not been I was going  
on public business if I had been on private instead of public I  
should have turned around and said Governor Ford if you choose to [space]  
with such characters as these I shall withdraw but it was necessary  
we should do our business in public capacity [space] I said we had  
been sent by General Smith that we had with us documents to inform  
him of position of the country and all what was going on generally he took  
our documents and commenced reading them but while he was reading ~~another~~  
one say that is a lie another that is a damned lie another  
that is a God damned lie but his excellency did not hear it perhaps he

[Image 166]

thought it very polite it passed off comfortably with him [space] the result of it was he told us he would prepare a letter for us he did so sometime late on in the evening we got a letter and went back to Nauvoo with it [space] when Joseph Smith read the letter he believed there was mischief intended by the governor and the parties and we talked over the matter for length of time in the Nauvoo Mansion and finally there was some gentlemen came in some relation of the late president and wished to see Joseph Smith and have some little conversation with him as it was very late and we had been up for one or two nights before I went ~~out~~ off and left him that evening in the morning I heard Hyrum and Joseph one or two others crossed the river and thought it best thing to go I crossed but did not see him until sometime next day when I got word from him Brother Elias Smith went to search Joseph brought me word that Joseph and Hyrum had concluded to go to Carthage and requested me to come and go along I had peculiar feelings at the time I had not seen them but I had been arranging my business to leave in half an hour I should have been started east except if I did not find them over the river I should meet them ~~by~~<sup>be</sup> there

[Image 167]

there was peculiar feelings among many of the brethren in relation  
to it I was not there during the whole of those deliberations as I said  
I was preparing to arrange my business for the east [space] Hyrum extended  
a strong wish to return and stated his feelings precisely and Joseph  
gave way to his brother's feelings [space] Joseph had told them  
in public speech before says he brethren I will stand by you to  
the death some of you/em[?] went and asked him if he was going  
to leave them now so I heard I do not know the number  
then he turned around and said die yes I am a man  
of honor and integrity I stand up to my post if the devil  
stand the way there was nothing of cowardice in him [space] lots  
of ~~brethren~~ others here say no [one?] sought to destroy the brethren  
he went out with [100/200]<sup>8</sup> men in the prairie to meet  
2500 no nothing of cowardice but he thought it would be  
better to ward off the blow a little while and trust to pardon[?]  
to regulate in his when the storm should be little abated these  
I believe were his feelings in going over the river

[Image 168]

we had been I believe before that I must mention a circumstance here  
that the city charter of Nauvoo possessed the right of a writ of habeas corpus  
which gave the parties the privilege of being taken from[?] before an officer  
if they considered there was injustice going to be done them and receive a trial  
in another place before this mob came before governor came  
Brother Joseph Brother Hyrum and all of the city council appeared before  
Squire Wells who was then one of the magistrate to answer to this  
charge brought ~~them~~ against them the municipal issued a writ of  
habeas corpus and the city marshall took us out of hands of officer  
sent from Carthage and we was brought before Squire Wells  
why because he was not in the church at that time and they could not  
have any reasonable objections for us to be tried before him in order  
to conciliate the people<sup>9</sup> we were acquitted but we were not satisfied [space] now  
I return to where I left off we agreed to go to Carthage  
Joseph said very little when we went but he did talk feelings on leaving  
home I remember a remark that President Young made down at North Ogden  
day awhile ago in speaking about Brother Joseph [space] he said at that  
time he believed the spirit of God was with drawn from it at the time



[Image 169]

and he was left to grapple with the powers of darkness I believe it  
I believe it from the statement he made somebody asked him as we  
were journeying to Carthage says they Joseph what will be the upshot of this  
matter well says he I do not know anything about it do not talk to me  
about matters now [space] I have given up my office and calling for the  
time being made some remark like that [space] I do not profess to guide  
this people now while I am in hands of officers somebody else  
must do it this is body of meaning spirit of words if not  
the exact words he went to Carthage and it was not Joseph and Hyrum  
alone implicated in that matter but all the city council I  
was one of them [space] ~~we went to~~ our brother the governor sent for Joseph  
Smith he pledged to us his honor and the honor of the state that these men  
should be protected and should not be injured he gave it to us  
as delegates that had been sent out by Joseph to convey this message to him  
we spoke about the position of country we told him we were abundantly  
able to defend ourselves we neither asked his help nor any  
other we had at that time 5000 men in arms  
and we could have taken one fourth of it and whipped out the

[Image 170]

governor's posse and his mobocrats consequently it was not because  
we could not defend ourselves but to be subject to the law of the land and conciliate  
the feelings of people shall we go forward and bring posse no  
says the governor don't bring any [space] what shall be the situation of Joseph  
and Hyrum and those with them I pledge my honor and honor of state  
they shall be protected and no harm shall come to them  
I deviate little in detail[?] perhaps because things [that?] occur to me  
which I have passed over [space] when we got there we had a hearing  
in the hotel we stayed at the same place the governor stayed in man's  
name that kept it was Hamilton however[?] as there was so much  
excitement at that time abroad[?] it was thought best we should go early have  
our appearance another time that was thought the best course to pursue  
by the lawyers and all parties concerned and as that was legal  
we thought we would give our bail have appearance another time and  
go at another time not in that excitement we went bail  
for one another and that thing was cleared for the time being in  
speaking of this bail I must refer back to the bail that  
was required of me and Brother Bernheisel in relation to Carns

[Image 171]

it is a little disconnected but I wish to put the thing [word crossed out] in  
as it was and show you why I came to such opinions about  
their proceeding next morning we went and waited Squire Smith  
when we waited upon him we spoke about this case of Carns and told  
him we had come to give bail for him says he I do not know  
whether I should be authorized to receive bail from any inhabitants  
from City of Nauvoo seeing things in such a troublesome state [space]  
before either one of us would have done it this time both were  
there he did not think ~~they~~ he would be justified [space] we have both got  
property in the county says I search the records well says he I  
do not think finally best for me to take bail but it would  
have done if one night before [space] now I go back to where  
I left we gave bail for one another and it was not opposed and could not be rejected the next thing was there  
was  
two ruthless characters I don't suppose anybody would have trusted them  
in death [space] I shall not mention any names about these one of them  
I have forgot the other matter of little moment let it pass  
suffice it to say they were men in whom could be placed no

[Image 172]

confidence they went and made affidavit to the same Smith all referred  
to that Joseph Smith and Hyrum were guilty of treason against  
the United States they had been put up to this by one of the lawyers  
they did this because treason was not aailable case and they thought they  
would get them into prison where they could accomplish their designs upon  
them as soon as I heard of this a constable a ruffian came into  
the room and was for bearing them off first after I told him  
to hold on and asked him what he was after Brother Phelps and others  
was present I went to the governor's room says Governor Ford are you  
aware that writ has been issued against Joseph and Hyrum Smith  
accusing them of treason and constable now wishing to put them  
into prison I call upon you to use your official authority  
and liberate them I am sorry says he that the thing should occur  
but says he it is a thing belongs to the judiciary and the executive nothing  
to do with it says I did not you pledge [me/m?] your word of honor and faith  
of state you see these men protected so I will says  
he [space] are you going allow them to be thrust into prison at the  
insistence of felons like these it is a thing belongs to the judiciary

[Image 173]

it would not hurt them for one night [gentlemen?] I expect  
different things from you [space] I went out ran[?] making and saw  
some of our party readying to make them back to a soldier  
I say will you go and tell your captain I wish to see  
him immediately and if not see him bring the first captain he came  
and brought me his captain I believe there is a design to murder  
these men and here is a ruffian wanting to [brn/brtion/--?]  
them among the people I wish you bring your company to protect  
them I will do so says he [space] and just as quick as  
constable got them to the door the company arrived to escort  
them to the jail every thing was excited at time [space] another  
circumstance about this I mention I do not know who he was I suppose  
he was in the militia perhaps a friend to the Mormons he came and whispered  
to my ear says he remember me but I never saw him from  
that time to this I should like to come across him he did  
all he could to save them a whole lot of us went with  
Joseph most of city council and one or two strange gentlemen  
that went into prison at same time they considered abuse and outrage[?]

[Image 174]

there was a room full of us that night in inquiring into  
the matter it was found they had come[?] acted illegally in this  
matter the officers had they had committed them to prison under  
what is called a mittimus as though they had been before them tried  
and proven guilty and they committed them to prison without a hearing after  
having commenced committed them to prison the officer had no right  
to take them out of it unless they came to county  
court and brought out by right of habeas corpus this was about the position  
of things well they refused to go out they appeared before  
a court called the next day this same officer Smith he was  
captain of company he went to the governor says he Joseph and Hyrum refused  
to go out of prison have you not got a posse says he do not you know  
what to do he could not interfere before in any capacity whatever to  
protect them but he could tell the officer what he could do to take  
them out by force on the principle of mobbing he spoke  
about before consequently they were brought out as company of men  
came and we all went out there was no charges against any  
but Joseph and Hyrum as witnesses could not be brought they

[Image 175]

were remanded back to prison for two days until witnesses could be gathered and proper hearing had [space] the next day the governor Governor Ford went to Nauvoo and he took away all of the military I believe with the exception of a company which was under the command of Captain Smith this same Smith captain of Carthage Grays the most blood thirsty men could be found anywhere and these were the guards of Governor Ford as he said to protect the lives of Joseph and Hyrum Smith when we were in jail remanded a second time there was only one or two allowed to go into jail besides myself and Brother Willard Richards we obtained liberty from the governor Richards being Joseph's private secretary and myself as his friend there was one or two others were permitted to go in and different people came to see us and we were left alone pretty much with the exception of two or three individual that came now and again one was Captain Jones as he is called from Wales another was Brother Wheelock Brother Markham and some two 3 others there was a strong feeling manifested by individuals of the brethren who would have been glad to have been with Joseph

\*<sup>10</sup>

[End of document]

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<sup>1</sup>"Note book mark" refers to the asterisk at the end of the part of the sermon recorded in this notebook, indicating the sermon was continued elsewhere, even though there are blank pages left in this book. Watt's shorthand for the rest of the sermon is not extant.

<sup>2</sup> Word is extremely difficult to read; possibly "lasciviousness".

<sup>1</sup>Written "gbsts", with final "ts" crossed out.

<sup>4</sup> Written "noise"; apparent intent is "knows". The difference is a diacritic, representing the vowel.

<sup>5</sup>"Strong" written over crossed out, illegible shorthand.

<sup>6</sup> Written "l , long i, m, vowel (ambiguous)".

<sup>7</sup>Written "Carns" throughout.

<sup>5</sup>"1" written over "2" or vice versa.

<sup>9</sup> Word could also be read "plea".

<sup>10</sup>"\*" indicates sermon was continued elsewhere; see note 1, above.